

STATE OF NEW YORK

1211--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 8, 2021

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health -- recommitted to the Committee on Health in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law and the executive law, in relation to establishing an electronic monitoring program for children diagnosed with developmental disabilities

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 13.44 to read as follows:

§ 13.44 Electronic monitoring for children with developmental disabilities.

1. For the purposes of this section the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Eligible applicant" shall mean a designated parent, grandparent, adult sibling, or otherwise qualified person as defined under section 33.16 of this chapter, of a child who has been diagnosed by a physician as an individual with a developmental disability as defined by section 1.03 of this chapter.

(b) "Electronic monitoring device" shall mean any radio, global positioning system, cellular device or any other satellite-based monitoring device that can provide continuous tracking of the geographic location of children and an automated monitoring system that can be used by an appropriate law enforcement agency at the request of an eligible applicant.

2. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services, shall establish a voluntary program to provide electronic monitoring devices to an eligible applicant for the purpose of being able to geographically locate a child upon

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 circumstances where the child is lost, missing or otherwise unable to be
2 accounted for.

3 3. (a) Upon the request of an eligible applicant, the nonprofit organ-
4 ization or local governmental unit shall issue such electronic monitor-
5 ing device in accordance with eligibility and documentation criteria
6 established by the office for a fee to be determined by the commission-
7 er. At a minimum, such eligibility and documentation criteria shall
8 require the active involvement of the child when such child has the
9 capacity to make an informed decision, for the purpose of determining
10 the child's willingness to participate in the voluntary program estab-
11 lished under this section.

12 (b) If a child is lost, missing or otherwise unable to be accounted
13 for, an eligible applicant may coordinate with the appropriate law
14 enforcement agency and inform the agency of the location of the child
15 using the electronic monitoring device and receiver.

16 (c) All applicant information provided by the parent to the office or
17 the division of criminal justice services shall remain confidential and
18 not be divulged by the office or the division of criminal justice
19 services except in cases where the eligible applicant signs a separate
20 consent form providing that any personally identifiable information on
21 the child may only be released in the event that an eligible applicant
22 seeks law enforcement action to find the location of a child who is
23 lost, missing or otherwise unable to be accounted for.

24 4. To the extent practicable, the commissioner shall utilize local
25 governmental units or nonprofit organizations which currently provide
26 electronic monitoring devices for the purposes of being able to
27 geographically track children who have an developmental disability as
28 defined in section 1.03 of this chapter.

29 § 2. Section 837 of the executive law is amended by adding a new
30 subdivision 23 to read as follows:

31 23. The division, in cooperation with the office for people with
32 developmental disabilities, shall provide recommendations to law
33 enforcement agencies regarding the risks associated with developmental
34 disabilities as defined in section 1.03 of the mental hygiene law and
35 appropriate response techniques concerning such disabilities. Recommen-
36 dations shall include information pertaining to the utilization of elec-
37 tronic monitoring devices to determine the location of children diag-
38 nosed with developmental disabilities.

39 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
40 it shall have become a law.